

EAST STOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, December 31st, 1897.

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my First Annual Report on the Health of the East Stow Rural District, for the year 1897.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Between the Census of 1881 and that of 1891, I find that the Population of this District had slightly decreased. If it has decreased at the same rate since, which is most probable, the population in the middle of 1897 would be 6108.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of Births registered was 168, giving a Birth-rate of 27.5 per 1000—last year the Birth rate was 31.5—thus showing a very considerable decrease.

DEATH RATE.

There were 105 Deaths registered, giving a Death-rate of 17.19 per 1000—very high indeed compared with that of last year, 13.25, and in 1895, 13.87.

INFANT MORTALITY.

That is the number of Deaths under 1 year, to 1000 Births was 113.09, compared with 114.5 last year.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

That is the Death-rate from the following diseases, viz.:—Measles, Diarrhoea, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Whooping Cough and Small Pox, was very low, there being only 5 deaths—giving a Death-rate of 0.8 per 1000.

PHTHISIS.

There were 6 Deaths from Phthisis—giving the very low Death-rate for this disease of 0.9 per 1000. There were 8 Deaths last year in this District.

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| Compared with | The Birth-rate was 0.1 per 1000 below that of E. Suffolk, 1896, | |
| East Suffolk and | | and 2.2 per 1000 below that of England, 1896. |
| England, 1896. | The Death-rate was 3.3 per 1000 above that of E. Suffolk, 1896, | |
| | | and was the same as that of England, 1896. |
| | The Zymotic Death-rate was 0.4 below that of E. Suffolk, 1896, | |
| | | and 1.3 below that of England, 1896. |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 43 notifications received during the year compared with 90 last year.

It is unfortunate that there is no Isolation Hospital provided for the District, as there is no possibility of properly isolating infectious cases in cottages with only two bed rooms—the usual accommodation.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 23 cases reported compared with 68 last year, all of a mild type, and no Deaths.

Disinfection.

With regard to the disinfection carried out in these cases, I wish to point out that it is quite inadequate, and until it is carried out correctly the disease will continue to spread.

As in Stowmarket the people seem to consider Fumigation quite sufficient—as a matter of fact this is only a part, and a very small part, of a whole.

After all the rooms into which the patient and nurse have been during the attack, have been fumigated:—

They should be lime-washed and re-papered (the old paper to be stripped off and immediately burned).

Floors, Furniture and Wood work well washed with a disinfecting solution (*e.g.* Izal $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 per cent.)

All Linen, &c., should be boiled, and articles which cannot be so treated, such as bedding, mattresses and blankets, should be disinfected by steam in a proper apparatus, or else burnt, together with all valueless articles used during the illness.

A proper form of steam disinfecting apparatus is absolutely necessary, and should be provided as soon as possible; and I would suggest that your Council combine with Stowmarket for this purpose, as one apparatus for the combined District would be ample.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 10 cases reported compared with 9 last year—two ended fatally.

In all these cases the Drinking Water was found to be very bad, and although it has not been proved that this disease is caused by using polluted water, it is an undoubted fact that those who use this kind of water are very liable to take Diphtheria, and to have it more severely.

There were also various other Sanitary defects found on inspection and remedied.

TYPHOID FEVER.

There were 3 cases reported compared with only 1 last year—one of the three ended fatally.

In these cases also the Drinking Water was found to be polluted.

The following are the special details regarding each Parish in the District:—

STOWUPLAND.

On the whole the health of this Parish has been satisfactory. There were 17 Deaths and 49 Births, giving—with the estimated population of 1300—the high Birth-rate of 37.69, and the Death-rate of 13.07.

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever were reported.

The New Ponds have supplied a long felt want. Two wells in Creeping Road were found to be polluted and were closed, the water being laid on from the Stowmarket Works.

COMBS (estimated pop. 1188.)

The health was very satisfactory. There were 36 Births and 14 Deaths—equal to a Birth-rate of 30.3 per 1000, and the very low Death-rate of 11.7 per 1000.

There were 11 cases of Scarlet Fever of a very mild type.

Two ponds were examined and analysed by me, and found to be in a very bad state, they have since been cleaned, &c.

BUXHALL (400).

There were 10 Births and only 2 Deaths in this Parish.

One case of Diphtheria was reported, and the sink in kitchen was found to be untrapped—giving rise to a very unpleasant smell—and was remedied.

ONEHOUSE (204.)

Excluding the Workhouse, the Births were 4 and the Deaths 2.

There was 1 case of Diphtheria reported.

In the Union Workhouse there were 3 Births, and 15 Deaths (chiefly of old people).

GIPPING.

This Parish was in the happy condition of having no Deaths during the year. There were 3 Births.

HARLESTON.

In this Parish there was 1 Birth and 3 Deaths.

Three cases of Diphtheria were reported in one cottage, and 2 of them died.

The water supply is very bad.

SHELLAND.

There were 2 Births and 1 Death.

WETHERDEN (429.)

There were 12 Births and 5 Deaths.

One case of Erysipelas was reported, and a case of overcrowding was remedied.

FINBOROUGH MAGNA.

There were 7 Births and 7 Deaths.

One Death was caused by Influenza. Three cases of Diphtheria were reported.

The water was examined and condemned, and has since been remedied.

FINBOROUGH PARVA.

There were 3 Births and 1 Death.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were reported.

HAUGHLEY (846.)

The health of this Parish was very unsatisfactory. There were 15 Births and 18 Deaths.

One case of Diphtheria was reported, and 1 case of Typhoid, which ended fatally.

The Water from the public pump was found on analysis to be polluted, and the well was thoroughly cleaned out and various defects remedied, with the result that the water is now much improved, although not absolutely free from pollution.

OLD NEWTON (664.)

The health of this Parish was also very unsatisfactory. There were 16 Births and 15 Deaths. Six of the 15 cases were under one year, giving the very excessive Infant Mortality of 375 per 1000.

Five cases of Infectious Diseases were reported.

The water supply is insufficient and bad, but an Artesian well is in course of construction.

CREETING ST. PETER (253.)

The health of this Parish was also unsatisfactory. There were 7 Births and 5 Deaths. Two of the 5 Deaths were under 1 year, and only one over 60 years of age.

One case of Typhoid Fever was reported.

An Artesian well has now been sunk into the chalk, giving a very good supply of water free from organic impurities, but containing a large quantity of iron, necessitating either filtration or settling before it can be used for domestic purposes.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHAS. W. LOW, M.B. D.P.H.

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NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

- NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*
2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*
3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*
4. The "*Localities*" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships or wards.

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those registered as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, e.g., the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.*

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres 21200.

Population (Last Census) 6125.

" { Estimated to } 6108
 { middle of 1897 }

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Death Rates. | { | General 17.19 | { | per 1000 |
| | | | | Population, estimated to middle of 1897. |
| | { | Infant (under one year of age) 113.09 | { | per 1000 Births Registered. |

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

CHAS. W. LOW, *Medical Officer of Health,*

February 9th, 1898.

NOTES ON TABLE B.

(See also Notes on back of Table A.)

- NOTE 1. The present *Table B.* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the district or division to which the Table relates.
2. As stated in the heading of Col. (a), *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmarys, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.
3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of notifiable disease upon the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of Consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*